

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An XML-based element stored in a computer-readable memory medium for encoding a visual cue for a visual component of a multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based element is structured for use by a computer to display the multimedia presentation including the visual component and the visual cue on a display ~~surface of~~ connected to the computer, wherein the XML-based element comprises:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue,

wherein the temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are defined relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual component, and

wherein the computer superimposes a display of the visual cue on the display of the computer over the visual component in the multimedia presentation, using a visual appearance which is based on the visual representation of the visual cue as defined in the visual element attribute that defines visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time which is based on the temporal characteristics of the visual cue as defined in

the temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element which is based on the spatial characteristics of the visual cue as defined in the spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

2. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

3. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the visual representation includes color.

4. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

5. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

6. (Previously Presented) An XML-based element, as defined in Claim 1, wherein the XML-based element for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual component.

7. (Currently Amended) In an XML-based browser that displays a synchronized multimedia presentation on a display of ~~a connected to a~~ computer to a user, a method for processing an XML-based element for a visual cue associated with a visual component of the multimedia presentation, comprising:

storing information from the XML-based element concerning the visual component to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the XML-based element concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and

in synchronization with display of the visual component, displaying the visual cue with the visual representation specified, and in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual component, and

wherein the display of the visual cue is superimposed over the associated visual component in the multimedia presentation using a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

8. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

9. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the visual representation includes color.

10. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

11. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

12. (Previously Presented) An XML-based browser, as defined in Claim 7, wherein the XML-based element for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual component.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer executable process steps to display a synchronized multimedia presentation on a display of a ~~connected to a~~ computer to a user, and to process an XML-based element for a visual cue associated with a visual component of the multimedia presentation, wherein the computer-executable process step cause the computer to execute process steps comprising:

a storing step to store information from the XML-based element concerning the visual component to which the visual cue is associated, together with information from the XML-based element concerning visual representation and spatial and temporal characteristics of the visual cue; and

in synchronization with display of the visual component, a displaying step to display the visual cue with the visual representation in the spatial and temporal relationships specified by the spatial and temporal characteristics,

wherein the defined temporal and spatial characteristics of the visual cue are relative to temporal and spatial characteristics of the associated visual component, and

wherein the display of the visual cue is superimposed over the associated visual component in the multimedia presentation using a visual appearance based on the defined visual representation of the visual cue, during a period of time based on the defined temporal characteristics of the visual cue, and at a location over the associated visual element based on the defined spatial characteristics of the visual cue.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the visual representation includes color.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the visual representation includes shape.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the spatial characteristics include position.

18. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 13, wherein the XML-based element for the visual cue is nested within an XML-based element that defines the associated visual component.

19. to 21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a synchronized multimedia presentation on a display screen of a ~~connected to a~~ computer executing an XML-based browser, comprising:

receiving XML-based data including an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the multimedia component; and

displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the multimedia component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium storing computer-executable process steps that cause a computer to display a synchronized multimedia presentation on a display screen of the connected to the computer which is executing an XML-based browser, wherein the computer-executable process steps comprise:

receiving XML-based data including an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the

multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component; and

displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the visual component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 26, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.



29. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a display screen;

a computer-readable storage medium for storing computer-executable process steps that cause a synchronized multimedia presentation to be displayed on the display screen, and for storing XML-based data for synchronizing the display of the multimedia presentation; and

a processor to execute the process steps stored in the storage medium;

wherein the process steps comprise:

receiving the XML-based data, wherein the XML-based data includes an XML-based element for a visual cue together with an XML-based element for a visual component contained in the multimedia presentation, wherein the XML-based visual cue element is nested within the XML-based element for the associated visual component, and wherein the XML-based visual cue element includes attributes that define temporal and spatial relativity between a display of the visual cue and a display of the visual component; and

displaying the synchronized multimedia presentation including the visual cue superimposed over the visual component in a temporal and spatial relationship defined by the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the attributes of the XML-based visual cue element comprise:

a visual element attribute that defines a visual representation of the visual cue;

a spatial element attribute that defines spatial characteristics of the visual cue; and

a temporal element attribute that defines temporal characteristics of the visual cue.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the temporal characteristics include at least two of begin time, end time, and duration.

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the visual representation includes at least one of a shape and a color of the visual cue.

34. to 45. (Cancelled)